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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC  
CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 11

## Standing Up

NEWS, PAGE 3

Walt Whitman High School students held a counter-protest in support of gay rights in response to a group of picketers from a Kansas church who protested the school's name-sake on Friday, April 24.

## 'Dhani Tackles The Globe'

NEWS, PAGE 3

## No Offense, Churchill Is for Real

SPORTS, PAGE 10

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Whitman students donned t-shirts bearing the likeness of their school's namesake in a counter-protest organized by Whitman sophomores Amar Mukunda (far right) and Ryan Hauck (not shown here).

## Standing Up

Whitman students rally en masse at protest by Kansas church of their school's namesake.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

Hundreds of students at Walt Whitman High School crowded behind a thin band of yellow tape running along the sidewalk in front of their school. They wore their school colors, and in a much-practiced routine, launched into an age-old athletic cheer.

"Let's Go Whitman," they shouted, then quickly clapped five times, then repeated the cheer several times over.

Across the street, a smiling woman, holding one sign that read "God Hates You" and another with the picture of a human fetus

**"The Lord is coming and America will be destroyed."**

— Rebekah Phelps-Davis

and the words "Bloody Obama," gyrated to the students' cheers atop an American flag beneath her feet.

In between stood Montgomery County Police officers, unsmiling, their hands on their hips.

Such was the scene outside of Walt Whitman High School during a protest by the Westboro Baptist Church from Wichita, Kansas and a counter-protest by Whitman

students on Friday, April 24. The church, which has gained national notoriety for picketing the funerals

of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq with messages such as "Thank God for Dead Soldiers," is staunchly anti-gay — its Web site is [www.godhatesfags.com](http://www.godhatesfags.com) — and views



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Less than a dozen members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topkea, Kansas picketed Walt Whitman High School on Friday, April 24 to protest the school's namesake, who the church thinks was gay. The church is staunchly anti-gay and has gained national notoriety for picketing the funerals of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, which the church views as God's punishment for America being tolerant of gays and therefore morally bankrupt. Whitman students organized a counter-protest to the church's picketers, and several counter-protesters said they were troubled by the church's use of young children to help carry their message.

the United States as a morally bankrupt and doomed nation because of its tolerance of homosexuality, according to its Web site. Members of the church regularly travel throughout the country protesting at schools, soldier's funerals, and other events that it views as evidence of a crumbling society and harbingers of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and an imminent Judgment Day.

"The Lord is coming and America will be destroyed," said Rebekah Phelps-Davis, one of between five and 10 Westboro Baptist members who protested across the street from Whitman.

The church selected Whitman as a picketing site because of speculation among historians that the school's namesake may have been gay and because the public edu-

cation system in general teaches students to disrespect God, a church member told The Almanac by phone last week.

"I'll tell you what the message is," said Sara Phelps when asked what message she hoped to convey to the Whitman students to know. "Your parents hate you and your teachers hate you. They've been told their whole lives that it's OK to be gay ... that's a lie."

WHEN WORD got out earlier this month that the church intended to picket the school, Whitman sophomores Amar Mukunda and Ryan Hauck organized the counter-protest, and on Friday roughly 300 Whitman students packed the Western side

SEE WHITMAN, PAGE 8

## 'Dhani Tackles the Globe' Potomac native Dhani Jones takes world by storm one sport at a time with new show.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

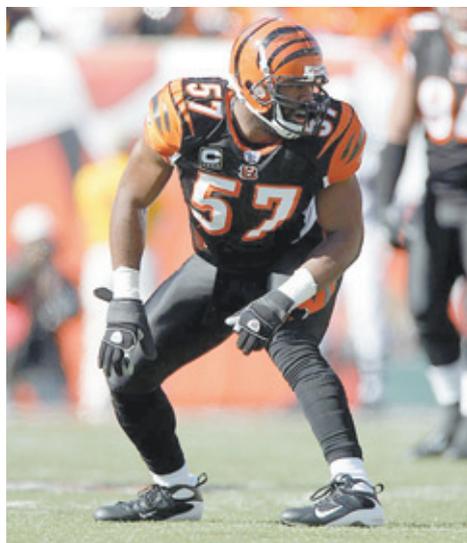
At different points in his young life, Potomac native Dhani Jones has taken on so many professions there's really no point in trying to define what exactly he does.

Sure, there's the Jones many know from the football field as an NFL linebacker for the Cincinnati Bengals. But then there's also Dhani the actor, television analyst, painter, musician, poet, writer, photographer, People's 50 most eligible bachelor, and even bowtie company owner — all of which Jones has dabbled in since graduating from Churchill in 1996.

But his latest career mutation may be the most original of them all: globetrotting reality television host.

With his new series "Dhani Tackles the Globe", which currently airs every Monday at 9 p.m. on the Travel Channel, Jones has

SEE DHANI, PAGE 4



COURTESY PHOTO

Potomac native and Churchill alum still plays for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals, but he's recently added reality show host to his resumé with the Travel Channel's "Dhani Tackles the Globe."



COURTESY OF THE TRAVEL CHANNEL

With his new show, Dhani Jones has gone from pro football player to a participant in schwingen, a form of Swiss wrestling.

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## NEWS

“I’m taking a chance and doing something different,” said Dhani Jones about traveling around the globe for his new show.



COURTESY OF THE TRAVEL CHANNEL

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**All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

# Dhani’s Latest Adventure

FROM PAGE 3

found a niche that combines two of his favorite passions — traveling and sports.

The premise of the show has Jones going to a different exotic locale each week, trying his hand at a national pastime as a means of connecting with the local culture and people, and then using those relationships to show viewers the best places to eat, drink, shop, and sleep in each country.

“The one thing I was aiming for was to just travel and expose people to amazing places that maybe they were shy of going to or may not have the opportunity to go to,” said Jones in a phone interview.

**THUS FAR**, Jones’s experiences have run the gamut of the world’s athletic scene, from learning the ancient martial art of muay thai in Thailand or the field hockey-esque sport of hurling in Ireland to dragon boat racing in Singapore and jai alai in Spain.

Promoted as the fastest sport in the world by the government of Spain, jai alai was what Jones said presented the most trouble for him. The most similar American sport is squash, but jai alai, also known as Basque Pelota, has lacrosse-like baskets, which players use to throw a goatskin-covered ball at speeds close to 200 mph.

“It’s not just catch and throw it, it’s a combination of hand-eye coordination ... and a little bit of [guts],” said Jones, who during his time at Churchill led the Bulldogs to the state finals in football, and was a member of the wrestling and track and field teams. “It’s a lot like golf around here, where they start playing at age five and then build their games from there.”

Jones said the idea for the show came about because of a relationship he had with Red Line Films, the company that is producing “Dhani Tackles the Globe.” The two sides had been pitching ideas back and forth for quite some time about what Jones liked to do, whom he liked to interact with, and where he liked going.

“I like to travel and play sports, so let’s figure out a way to link the two together and that became [the show],” said Jones, whose first name “Dhani” means “Thinking Man” in Hindu.

The tricky part was figuring out how to film around Jones’s hectic schedule. The 10-episode season was

filmed in three parts — some before minicamp in May 2008, some before the 2008-09 NFL season began and the last few when the 2008-09 campaign was done in January.

The 31-year-old linebacker also took a gamble skipping parts of the Cincinnati Bengals offseason workouts the past two years for filming, but it was a risk the 10-year veteran was more than willing to take.

“I’m taking a chance and doing something a little different,” said Jones, who had the second-best statistical season of his career in 2008, finishing with 116 total tackles. “Whether it’s football, traveling or sports, it’s the mix that makes Dhani.”

**THE TRAVEL CHANNEL** has already announced it is picking up “Dhani Travels the Globe” for a second season even though there are still three episodes yet

to air in its initial run. One of the big reasons for that is Jones burgeoning status as an internet superstar.

Along with weekly video and written blogs, thousands of fans of the show have also been following Jones on Twitter and Facebook. In addition, some youtube videos featuring and promoting Jones and the show have more than 500,000 hits on the Web.

Jones currently splits his time between San Diego, New York City, and Cincinnati, but lately it feels like “most of my time is spent on a plane.” He comes back to the Washington, D.C. area as often as his

schedule allows to visit his parents, Samuel and Nancy, who still live in Potomac.

According to Jones, none of this would have been possible without them, since they forced him and his sister, Akila, to experience a wide range of cultures with trips to Asia, Europe, and Africa.

So what’s next? Jones says he has dreams of a guest-driven show like Larry King Live, where he could not only interview athletes, but also tackle issues like the United Nations and the economy. This fall, he’ll return to the gridiron for his 10<sup>th</sup> season, but as has always been the case, life between the lines will never define Dhani Jones.

“I want to expand my understanding and allow people to get a glimpse of the world that they may not have known about,” said Jones. “It’s something I care about and it’s something I want to continue doing.”

## Where in the World Has Dhani Been?

The first season of “Dhani Tackles the Globe” has taken Potomac native Dhani Jones all over the planet and allowed to see and do things many can only dream about. The show currently airs every Monday at 9 p.m. on the Travel Channel. Here’s a list of the places and sports he will have seen when the show ends its first-year run on May 18:

- \* Muay Thai (martial arts) in Thailand
- \* Schwingen (Swiss wrestling) in Switzerland
- \* Dragon Boat Racing in Singapore
- \* Jai Alai in Spain
- \* Hurling in Ireland
- \* Lifeguarding in Australia
- \* Pradal Serey (martial arts) in Cambodia (airs May 4)
- \* Sailing in New Zealand (airs May 11)
- \* Sambo (martial arts) in Russia (airs May 18)

# NEWS

## No Stimulus Money for Canal Breach

The National Park Service announced last week that nearly 800 projects around the country will be undertaken through about \$750 million designated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The C&O Canal

**THIS WEEK  
IN POTOMAC**

National Historical Park received roughly \$14 million in that stimulus funding for repair projects but no funds were slated for the breach in the C&O Canal towpath near Old Angler's Inn. Around \$12 million of the funds are slated to go to repairs of the towpath at Big Slackwater in Washington County, according to Matthew Logan, the head of the C&O Canal Trust, a private organization that raises funds for the park.

## Community Center Flea Market

The Potomac Community center is holding a flea market on Saturday, May 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The flea market has been a biannual event for last the last five years and is an opportunity for people to sell new or used items. The fee to reserve a vendors stall is \$30, all of which goes towards funding programs at the center.

## Annual Rachel Smith Memorial Dog Walk

The third annual Rachel Smith Memorial Dog Walk will take place this weekend at Beverly Farms Elementary School. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the walk

begins at 10 a.m. Dog owners are invited, as are those who want to walk without a dog. A minimum \$5 donation is requested. Proceeds go to a fund established in conjunction with the Montgomery County Humane Society which engages at-risk teens with animals at the Humane Society. The program's mission is to help build connections, purpose and trust in both the teens and the animals at the same time. Those who can not attend but would still like to make a donation may do so by emailing Rachel Sacks at rsacks@bbyo.org. Beverly Farms Elementary School is located at 8501 Post Oak Road in Potomac.

## St. George's Festival

For several generations the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George has presented its annual Greek Festival to the community and the metropolitan area. This year's festival will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 1, 2, and 3 at 7701 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda on the church grounds. For more information visit the church's Web site at www.stgeorge.org or contact the St. George office at 301-469-7990.

## Landon Azalea Festival

The Landon School's Azalea Garden Festival starts Friday, May 1 and runs through Sunday, May 3. The annual event features tours of the school's 2.5-acre Perkins Garden, as well as plant and craft sales, a children's Funland, a tuition raffle, live music, a 5k race and one-mile fun run, and many other events. All proceeds from the Festival support Student Financial Assistance and Faculty Enrichment. General admission and parking is free though an admission fee is required.

For more information and a full

schedule of the festival, visit www.landon.net. The Landon School is located at 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda.

## Family Day at Glen Echo Park

Family Day at Glen Echo Park on Saturday, May 2, will usher in the 89th season of the Park's historic Dentzel carousel. The 1921 carousel will operate in 2009 from May

SEE THIS WEEK, PAGE 9

## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by  
**Michael Matese**

### DON'T THINK TWICE

After just a week on the market, your Realtor has brought you a terrific offer to purchase your house. The buyers were reasonable and well qualified. After talking with your agent, you decide to accept the offer.

After the agent leaves, you start thinking about what you have just done and feel terrible. You wonder if you acted too quickly-- maybe you should have waited for a better offer! You fear that the buyers will let your garden go to seed and pull down all the beautiful wallpaper that you just put up.

These fears are such a common phenomenon that they have been given a name -- "seller's remorse"! It is perfectly normal to feel this way, especially if you are selling a home where you have lived for many years and which holds many memories. Relocation is a stressful experience, and "seller's remorse" is almost always temporary. It is quickly replaced by the excitement of moving into your new home!

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This gourmet dinner is a fundraiser to send local area high school students to perform RENT: School Edition at the International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2009. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting Maryland high school students who are interested in the performing arts.

To RSVP, visit [www.supportingcastfoundation.org](http://www.supportingcastfoundation.org)  
 Questions? (301) 365-0084

## CALENDAR



**Audubon Nature Fair on Sunday, May 3 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Audubon Naturalist sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase. Enjoy hikes, activities, and more.**

To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. For more information, call 703-917-6407.

### ONGOING

The **Bethesda Farmers Market** will be open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Veterans Park, corner of Norfolk and Woodmont Avenues, through Oct. 31. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or 301-215-6660.

### FRIDAY/MAY 1

**Dancing in the Park.** 7 p.m. at Bumper Car Pavilion in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy swing dancing, food, music and silent auction to benefit Montgomery County residents with developmental disabilities. \$75/person. Visit [www.seconline.org](http://www.seconline.org) or 301-576-9024.

**Greek Festival.** St. George Church, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Enjoy food, vendors and more. Visit [www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org) or 301-469-7990.  
**Contra Dance.** 7:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/MAY 2

**Flea Market and Yard Sale.** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Free. 240-777-6960.

**Car Wash/Bake Sale.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Cold Spring Elementary, 9210 Falls Chapel Way. Proceeds benefit Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville. Contact David Weiss [eyeski@rosslyneye.com](mailto:eyeski@rosslyneye.com)

**Family Day Celebration.** The Dentzel carousel will open, enjoy demonstrations, dances, magic, and more from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Most activities free, carousel rides \$1.25. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or 301-634-2222.

**Cinco de Mayo Festival.** Noon-9 p.m.

at Rockville Town Square. Enjoy music, food, activities and more. Free. Visit [www.rockvilletownsquare.com](http://www.rockvilletownsquare.com) or 301-998-8178.

**Greek Festival.** St. George Church, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Enjoy food, vendors and more. Visit [www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org) or 301-469-7990.  
**Junior Ranger Day.** 1-6 p.m. at Clara Barton National Historic Site, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy activities and more. Children ages 7-12. Free. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or 301-634-2222.

**Waltz Ball Gala.** 6:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy a night of dancing and more. \$175/person. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or 301-634-2230 for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Amber Nelson. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) or 301-371-5593.

**Climb Wall Weekend.** 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the old stables building at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and \$5/nonmember. Visit [www.discoverycreek.org](http://www.discoverycreek.org) or 202-488-0627.

**Swing Dance.** 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$14/person. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Book Talk.** 1 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Ginny Gong talks about her book "From Ironing Board to Corporate Board: My Chinese Laundry Experience in America." Free. 240-777-0690.

### SUNDAY/MAY 3

**StoryTheatre Series.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Anansegramma." \$7/person. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.

**Migratory Bird Walk.** 7:30 a.m. at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Watch for birds along the river. Visit [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org) or 301-608-1188 ext. 211.

**Voices of the River.** 10:30 a.m. at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Hear music by Kensington Station. Free. Visit [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org)

or 301-608-1188 ext. 211.

**Reading.** 2 p.m., Wendell Hawken reads from her poetry collection "The Luck of Being," at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Free. 301-654-8664 or [postmaster@writer.org](mailto:postmaster@writer.org) for details.

**World Laughter Day.** 7 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Enjoy laughing exercises and more. Free, all ages. E-mail [nira@laughingrx.com](mailto:nira@laughingrx.com) for more.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Hear the U.S. Army Orchestra. Free. Visit [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com)

**Reception.** 3-5 p.m., see paintings by Joann Clayton from May 1 through May 28 at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Free. Visit [www.joannclayton.com](http://www.joannclayton.com) for more.

**KidFest.** Noon-5 p.m. at Public Service Training Academy, 9710 Great Seneca Highway, Rockville. All ages can enjoy food, finger painting, clowns, entertainment and more. Free. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec) for more.

**Audubon Nature Fair.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Audubon Naturalist sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase. Enjoy hikes, activities, arts, entertainment and more. \$5/adult; free for children. For more information, go to [www.audubonnaturalist.org](http://www.audubonnaturalist.org).

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Hear Sergio Mendes perform. Visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC) for more.

**Greek Festival.** St. George Church, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Enjoy food, vendors and more. Visit [www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org) or 301-469-7990.  
**Art Exhibit.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Amber Nelson. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) or 301-371-5593.

**Climb Wall Weekend.** 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the old stables building at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and \$5/nonmember. Visit [www.discoverycreek.org](http://www.discoverycreek.org) or 202-488-0627.

**Waltz Dance.** 3-6 p.m. at Spanish

Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$8/person. Live music. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Contra and Square Dance.** 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$12/nonmember; \$9 to member. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org) for more.

### TUESDAY/MAY 5

**Tiny Tot Tuesdays.** 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Puppet Co. in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$5/person. Watch "Panda-monium." Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.  
**Chinese Language Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Discuss a book. Call 240-777-0690 for title.

### THURSDAY/MAY 7

**Blues Dance.** 8:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Learn the dances and then enjoy music from a DJ. \$8/person. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/MAY 8

**Contra Dance.** 7:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$30/person. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/MAY 9

**StoryTheatre Series.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Anansegramma." \$7/person. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.

**Colonial Candle Making.** 1:30 p.m. at Visitor Center, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek. Learn about candles, wicks and more. \$15/member; \$20/non member. 301-283-2113.

**Fine Arts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Woodmont Triangle along Norfolk and Auburn Avenues. Enjoy exhibits music, food and more. Free. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or 301-215-6660.

**Art Class.** 10 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road. Learn about weaving and more.

**Art Exhibit.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Russ Schofield. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) or 301-371-5593 for more.

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## NEWS

**"It is on some levels certainly an education on the democratic process."**

— Steve Simon, spokesperson, MCPS

# Whitman Students Stage Counter-Protest

FROM PAGE 3

of Whittier Boulevard — on school grounds — as the Westboro Baptist protesters stood across the street.

"I think it's really important to let the community know ... we support our gay brothers and sisters," said Whitman sophomore Maansi Sahay-Seth.

"God loves everybody — even fags," Whitman student Jessica Papados shouted across the road.

Several protesters said they were disturbed to see at least two young children affiliated with the church's protesters holding signs reading "God Hates Fags" aloft.

"The fact they would use children ... those kids don't even know," said Papados.

Juniors Ronnie Foreman and Fiona Lynn briefly tamed their portion of the Whitman crowd as they read aloud from Whitman's "Song of Myself" — because "that's what we're about," said Foreman of the selection.

When Whitman principal Alan Goodwin first heard of Westboro Baptist's intentions to picket



**Whitman principal Dr. Alan Goodwin said he was pleased with the calm, non-violent nature of the Whitman counter-protest to the Westboro Baptist picketers. In the background is Ryan Hauck, one of the student organizers of the counter-demonstration.**

his school he hoped they wouldn't show, but when it became clear that they would many of the school's teachers altered lesson plans to incorporate Whitman's poetry and tutorials on the freedom of speech.

Montgomery County Public Schools spokesperson Steve Simon said that on top of anything else, the day's events were of educational value to the students.

"It is on some levels certainly an education on the democratic pro-

cess," Simon said.

Goodwin said afterwards that he was proud of the way the students conducted themselves calmly in the face of rhetoric that many found offensive.

Several Whitman parents joined the students and teachers who attended the counter-protest. Carmen Kaplan said that she was there to support her daughter Laura Kaplan, a Whitman junior who said that she was gay. Carmen Kaplan said that she believes in the freedom of speech, but that the church's mes-

## And Now for an Encore ...

The protest by the Westboro Baptist Church at Walt Whitman High School and the counter-demonstration by hundreds of Whitman students went off without incident on Friday, April 24. Then on Saturday morning a 911 call was placed regarding a suspicious package in the parking lot of the school. A Montgomery County Fire and Rescue hazmat crew was brought in to examine a backpack filled with what looked like pipe bombs, said Cpl. Stephen Galloza of the Montgomery County Police. A bomb squad used a robot to detonate the bag, which turned out not to be filled with explosives. The school and two nearby houses were briefly evacuated during the incident. No leads were immediately available on how the backpack got there or who it belonged to, Galloza said.

sages were outdated.

"This hate monger stuff — this is 2009, we don't need any more hate mongering," she said.

Phelps-Davis said that she didn't expect to change any minds during their protest, and Phelps said that whether the Whitman students accepted their message was beside the point.

"Frankly, we don't have to worry about that because not one word will fall on the ground," Phelps said. "The Lord will hear us."

As the Westboro Baptist protesters began to pack their gear the Whitman crowd roared in delight and offered up a final chant that would more usually be heard celebrating a win by one of their Viking teams, chanting, 'nah nah nah nah, nah nah nah, hey hey hey, good-bye.'

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# NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

2 through Sept. 27.

Family Day will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most activities are free; carousel rides are \$1.25.

## Spring House Tour Coming

The inaugural Entertaining You Potomac Spring House Tour sponsored by Potomac's Congregation Har Shalom will take place on Sunday and Monday, May 3 and

4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tickets are on sale now. Tickets are limited and may be reserved in advance, for \$25 each, by calling the congregation at 301-299-7087, or at the House Tour Web site, [www.PotomacHouseTour.org](http://www.PotomacHouseTour.org), by credit card. Ticket order forms may also be downloaded from the Web site and mailed in, along with a check or credit card information. Each ticket purchaser will receive a Tote Bag containing disposable booties, a House Tour Guide Book

### THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

and a Map along with their ticket. Raffle tickets are also being sold, with prizes including a painting by Potomac artist Laverne Markowitz, and a one-of-a-kind mezuzah by artist Renate Chernoff, also of Potomac. Proceeds from the House Tour will enable the congregation to continue its volunteer efforts to help more than 40 local and international charitable organizations, all of which are listed at [www.PotomacHouseTour.org](http://www.PotomacHouseTour.org).

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# No Offense, Churchill Is for Real

**Bulldog girls' lacrosse is scoring in bunches and undefeated this season.**

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

It was 10 minutes into last Thursday's girls' lacrosse game between Churchill and Whitman when Bulldog midfielder Angela Biciocchi decided to show the Vikings what the rest of the county is quickly learning about her team.

With the contest tied at three apiece, she put her head down and began a full-on sprint towards the Whitman net. But right as it looked like she would fire a bad angle shot, Biciocchi glanced behind for a split second, fired a pass to junior Zoe Kabelac charging wide open down the center of the offensive zone, and in a matter of moments, there was no longer a tie game.

It was just one of 22 goals Churchill would score, another night in the life of these Bulldogs, who are in the midst of a run nobody — including themselves — ever expected.

Through nine games this season, Churchill is undefeated with a 9-0 record following Monday's 21-19 overtime win against Bethesda-Chevy Chase, possesses the county's most dynamic offense at 16.78 goals per game, and hasn't tallied fewer than 12 goals in any contest yet. Not too shabby for a team that went 8-7 a year ago and had to adjust to a new coach early on.

"We thought we were gonna be underdogs this year," said Kabelac. "We had no idea that we were gonna come out like this."

"It's crazy," added Biciocchi, a senior who is one of the few Montgomery County public school lacrosse players committed to play for a Division-I program — Delaware. "I thought it was gonna be a lot of hard work for me this season, but not at all."

**ANY CONVERSATION** about Churchill's offensive explosion this year has to begin with the three-headed monster that is Biciocchi, Kabelac and junior Sophia Ein. The trio has combined for 125 goals this season.

## POTOMAC SPORTS BRIEFS

### Wootton Runner Sets School Record

Wootton junior Jessie Rubin always likes it best when she gets to run early during a track meet as in last Saturday's Cassels XBC Track Experience in Chantilly, Va. because then she doesn't have to "sit and wait, wait and wait and get tired."

But not even the morning sunshine could prepare Rubin for what would come next when she took off on the 3200-meter race. The Patriot long distance star stole the show with a time of 11:03.52, almost 18 seconds faster than her seed time and 16 seconds below her previous personal record.

Later she found out the time set a meet and Wootton school record. It was all a part of a banner day for Rubin, who also took home first-place honors in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:14.56.

"It's really hard to believe," Rubin said afterwards. "I thought I was gonna get an 11:15 or something. I wasn't expecting to get a time that



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

**Led by senior Angela Biciocchi, the undefeated Churchill girls' lacrosse team has scored more goals than any other Montgomery County team so far this season.**

Looking at the stats, though, it's almost comical. In four games this year, the three have combined for 15 or more goals. That doesn't even include April Fool's Day when Kabelac tallied a remarkable 11 goals — no joke — in a 24-15 win over Richard Montgomery. She currently leads the team with 56 markers this season.

Throw in the fact that Biciocchi has just 40 goals with three games remaining — after scoring a team-high 58 last year — and it's no wonder the Bulldogs are closing in on some extraordinary records, like the school's first undefeated lacrosse season in history.

The offensive productivity even helps on the defensive end, where the Bulldogs have talented players like senior Nikki Frank and

fast."

Also taking home first place at the meet for the Wootton girls' were freshman Casey Dowling (100-meter dash, long jump), and the 4x100-meter relay. The Patriots finished in first place amongst the 22-team field.

### Mason Cut from Jets

Potomac native and former Scotland resident Marcus Mason was waived by the New York Jets last Monday. The running back starred at Georgetown Prep during his record-setting high school football career, becoming the all-time leading rusher in Maryland football history with 5,700 yards.

Mason played two years at Illinois before transferring to Youngstown State, where he rushed for a school record 1,847 yards during his senior season. After going undrafted out of college, Mason was signed by the Redskins in 2007. He spent most of his rookie year on the practice squad.

In 2008, Mason led the NFL in rushing during

### The Bulldogs: By The Numbers

- 151:** Total goals through nine games this season
- 125:** Goals for the trio of Zoe Kabelac, Angela Biciocchi, and Sophia Ein
- 56:** Number of goals for leading scorer Kabelac
- 16.78:** Average goals per game through Monday
- 11:** Number of goals scored by Kabelac in one game this season
- 9:** Consecutive win to start the season

goalie Lizzy Naegeli. To score this many goals, the fearsome threesome has to have the ball a lot, meaning opposing offenses are left watching the Montgomery County lacrosse version of the greatest show on turf. "We just rely on each other and it works," said Ein (29 goals), while mentioning that a nail biting 14-13 win over Wootton in late March gave the team "confidence that we could do anything."

**THE NEW COACH**, Christen Pena-Ariet, has also played a role in the development of this offensive juggernaut. Slight in stature and voice, Pena-Ariet could pass as one of the team's players if she really wanted to. But don't let her size or volume fool you, she's about as competitive as they come.

The type of coach who says things like "I hate losing more than I like winning," Pena-Ariet is about as dog-eat-dog as they come in the girls' lacrosse world.

She makes every practice a game with the offense taking on the defense in whatever drill the team may be doing. The loser has to run, which creates an atmosphere where "they're always wanting to win, even in practice."

An impartial observer could wonder about her tactics, but nobody can question the results they've produced on the field. Biciocchi, Kabelac, and Ein have all been a part of Churchill's varsity squad for at least three seasons, but never before have they won this many games in a row.

"We all just have a sense of what the other can do," said Biciocchi before Kabelac broke in with her own explanation. "We're just run 'n' gun, that's all it is."

the preseason with 317 yards, but was cut by the Redskins in August. He then spent eight weeks on the Baltimore Ravens practice squad before being signed to the Jets active roster in late October.

### Local College Athlete Honored

Whitman grad **Krissy Bentolila** was recently selected to the NCAA Division II Conference Carolinas All-Conference first team in women's lacrosse for her play with Pfeiffer University.

Bentolila, a senior captain and Potomac native, is currently ranked fifth in the country in points and sixth in the country in assists. At the time of voting, Bentolila started in all 16 games at attack for Pfeiffer tallying 39 goals and 31 assists. She scooped 18 ground balls, grabbed nine draw controls, and caused 11 turnovers. Bentolila was named conference Player of the Week in week eight and was named to the womenslacrosse.com honor roll in the same week.

# Juniors Provide Patriots With Pop

MIKE WEINER  
THE ALMANAC

For most baseball teams in the county, production normally comes from a select group of seniors that carry the offensive load. This week at least, Wootton was not one of those teams.

It was a group of juniors that carried Wootton to four-consecutive wins and a place amongst the county's baseball elite heading into the postseason next week. The Patriots scored wins over Richard Montgomery Thursday, ninth-ranked Damascus and Magruder in a Saturday doubleheader, and defending state champion Sherwood on Monday. Junior Max Simon was a combined 7-for-7 in the doubleheader, while classmates Andrew Weinstein and James Fitzpatrick had home runs in the Damascus and Magruder games, respectively, to carry the Patriots.

Wootton's offense was in high gear in the Saturday doubleheader. The Patriots scored 24 total runs (10-5, 14-9) en route to two big wins that should cement their status as a contender for the regional championship. Against Damascus, it was a key fifth-inning sequence that culminated in a two-RBI hit by junior Alex Kelly and a Weinstein two-run bomb that gave Wootton a 9-2 lead and effectively put away the Hornets. The drive was Weinstein's first career home run and one of many contributions in the game from juniors.

"Our juniors have really stepped up," senior Evan Pappas said. "We've been waiting for them to come around and they're definitely living up to their potential right now and they're playing really well."

"It's good to find a place in the lineup and contribute to the team," Weinstein said. "The rest of the juniors feel the same way. We all want to play and show what we can do."

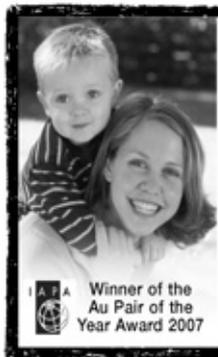
The win against Damascus marks yet another triumph over a ranked opponent for the Patriots. Wootton typically plays well with higher competition, but can become unfocused and play down to lower competition at times.

Wootton added to its winning ways on Monday against defending state champion Sherwood, fending off a furious Warrior rally that included a three-run home run in the fifth inning. The Patriots jumped on Sherwood early, scoring four runs in the first inning and fending off the Warriors from there to win 7-5. Simon, who got the start, had eight strikeouts in just four innings of work.

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# Comfort and Joy



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

We've had the "Buff Boys," (sandy, beige, frothy white color; and brothers, too), a.k.a. Cappuccino and Biscuit, almost two years. We "rescued" them from Castle Cat Rescue, a cat rescuer of devoted proportions when the boys were about 7 months old. We cat-cornered them home on a Saturday afternoon and upon entering their new home (ours), of course scattered every which way looking for someplace familiar. Finding only unfamiliar places (and no familiar scents), they eventually found refuge together, underneath a couch, which sits in the corner of our dining room. And for a couple of days at least, that's where they remained, despite our coaxing. Not wanting to stress them unnecessarily, that's exactly where we left them. We fed and watered them there and placed their litter box within site and smell as well.

Though we had — and still have — an adult golden retriever in the house (Bailey), his old age prevented him from climbing the two steps required to enter the dining room and interfere with the cat's evolving routine. Certainly the cats wouldn't have known that (and of course, there's no way we could have communicated it to them). But, we knew, so their placement in the dining room was strategically considered with every expectation that over time, after familiarity began to breed courage, the boys would venture out and away from their cozy confines and explore the rest of the house and begin to acclimate.

Within a week or so of observing the boys' movements, we moved their food from immediately in front of the couch to its current location, approximately 10 feet away, still in the dining room but in a more centralized feeding location and one still safely at paws' distance from Bailey. We also moved their litter box to its present semi-private, outside-of-the-dining-room location, carrying the cats in the process and placing them directly in the box so they would know its new permanent location and force them, quite frankly, to have to move throughout the house a little bit. It wasn't a seamless operation for the cats, but as you cat owners know, eventually they figured it out and here we all sit, literally, one big, happy, family; and often together in one room; Kenny, Dina, Bailey, Biscuit, Cappuccino and not to be forgotten, Chester, our rabbit.

As I sit at the dining room table and write, Biscuit is inconveniently lying across the very tablet on which I am attempting to write. "Cino" is curled up on one of the dining room chairs that sits at the head of this table at which I'm sitting and still attempting to write. Bailey, now nearly 14, is still spry when encouraged but content most of the other times to lay in his orthopedic bed on the floor in the adjacent living room or underneath the coffee table in the den sleeping. Chester is in his cage in the kitchen, asleep for the moment, stretched out on his aspen bedding, nose crinkling, ready to pounce at the slightest noise. And so it goes, everywhere I look, an animal, doing things that animals normally do.

Soon, it will be feeding time. The cats will meow, Bailey will pant and Chester will stand up on his hindquarters, front paws grabbing his cage pleading for a cracker. Bailey will be fed first, he's the senior man; next will be Chester because his food is stored between Bailey's and the cats', then the cats will be fed (last) because they're fed in another room (still in the dining room, for privacy sake). If we don't pay attention and watch who eats what, the animals will eat from one another's bowls: Chester will eat the dry cat food and the dry dog food, the cats will eat Bailey's dry dog food and drink from his water bowl, and Bailey will eat from the cat's litter box (if he can remember where it is) and miscellaneous other animal-related droppings he might find (from when the rabbit is out of his cage). After meals, everybody goes to sleep; Chester in his cage, Bailey and the two cats wherever they find comfort.

I was hesitant at first to introduce two kittens into the life of our semi-retired golden retriever, I didn't want them bothering him while he was trying to enjoy his golden years (no pun intended). But the cats seem to have figured out his tolerances and really don't interfere with his winding-down routine. Oh, they run underneath him when he comes back in the house, curl their tails under his jaw when he's walking, stick their noses in his food bowl when he's eating but generally, the animals coexist peacefully (most of the time).

Thanks to Biscuit and "Cino," there is new life and energy in our house, energy that we didn't know was missing. And as it has evolved, energy that was much needed and is very much appreciated. I realize I'm only discussing cats (and a dog and rabbit), but living with love and affection cannot be overvalued. And thanks to the "Buff Boys" our lives are whole again.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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